

Lewis, Clark and the Corp of Discovery



Name: _____ Section: _____

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

1. Expedition
2. Louisiana Territory
3. Corp of Discovery
4. Keelboat
5. Continental Divide
6. Northwest Passage
7. Oregon Country

1. _____ : _____

2. _____ : _____

3. _____ : _____

4. _____ : _____

5. _____ : _____

6. _____ : _____

7. _____ : _____

Notes

Lewis & Clark

- I. In 1803, after purchasing Louisiana, Congress gave Jefferson money to send explorers on an _____ to study the Louisiana territory.
 - a. Jefferson chose _____ to lead the expedition.
 - b. Lewis chose his friend _____ to be _____.
 - c. Together, Lewis and Clark lead a group of roughly 30 men called the _____.
 - i. They were challenged with doing the following:
 1. _____
 2. Find an _____ route if possible
 3. Study and record the _____, _____, _____ and _____ life of the west.
 4. Learn about _____ living west of Mississippi.

II. Makeup of the Corp of Discovery

- a. Consisted of:
 - i. Lewis & Clark
 - ii. _____
 - iii. 1 _____
 - iv. Several Native American _____
 - v. _____

III. The Journey was divided into two parts: the journey west and the return trip home.

- a. The Journey West
 - i. May 1804, after a year of preparation, the Corp of Discovery left from _____.
 - ii. During the summer of 1804 the expedition crossed the _____.
 1. The expedition crossed the Great Plains by traveling up the _____

- a. The group used a large boat called a _____ to transport most of their supplies.
2. While on the Great Plains, the expedition experienced its only fatality.
 - a. Sgt. _____ died of _____.
 - b. Floyd died in what is now _____.
- iii. The expedition spent the winter of _____ - _____ in North Dakota at _____.
 1. Located in the center of what is now North Dakota
 2. Named after local _____
 3. Picked up a French guide named _____
 - a. Charbonneau brought one of his two _____ wives to act as an interpreter.
 - i. Her name was _____.
 - ii. Sacagawea brought along her infant son, _____.
 4. Before leaving Ft. Mandan the following spring, the _____ was loaded with maps and specimens and sent back to Jefferson.
- iv. In the spring of 1805, the expedition set out to cross the _____.
 1. Most of this portion of the journey was spent in _____ and on _____.

2. During this part of the journey the expedition passed through land that _____ recognized from the childhood.
 - a. Sacagawea proved to be extremely valuable.
 - i. Acted as a _____
 - ii. Served as a _____
 - iii. Helped the expedition find _____
3. In the Rockies Lewis & Clark crossed the _____
_____.
 - a. Crossed near _____ on what is now the Montana/Idaho border.
4. The Continental Divide proved that there was no _____
_____ the Pacific.
- v. November 7th, 1805, the expedition reached the Pacific Ocean.
- vi. The expedition spent the winter of 1805-1806 at _____
in _____.
- b. The Return Trip Home
 - i. The return trip to St. Louis took another _____
 1. The trip was much faster because the expedition was traveling _____.
 - ii. The expedition returned home in _____

IV. Effects of Lewis & Clark's Journey

- a. _____ much of the Northwest
- b. Led to the discovery of over _____ new animal and plant species
- c. Inspired many Americans and lead to western settlement and trade
 - i. Examples:
 - 1. Inspired _____ to explore and map much of the _____
- d. Led to tragedy for _____

Lewis & Clark

Maps and Readings

Mapping the Journey West

Directions: Use the maps on pages 308 and 620 & 622 of your textbook to locate the following items and locations on the attached map.

Waterways

Label each body of water and then trace or color it blue

1. Mississippi River
2. Missouri River
3. Snake River
4. Columbia River
5. Pacific Ocean
6. Atlantic Ocean
7. Gulf of Mexico

Landmarks/Cities

Place a dot and label each of the following

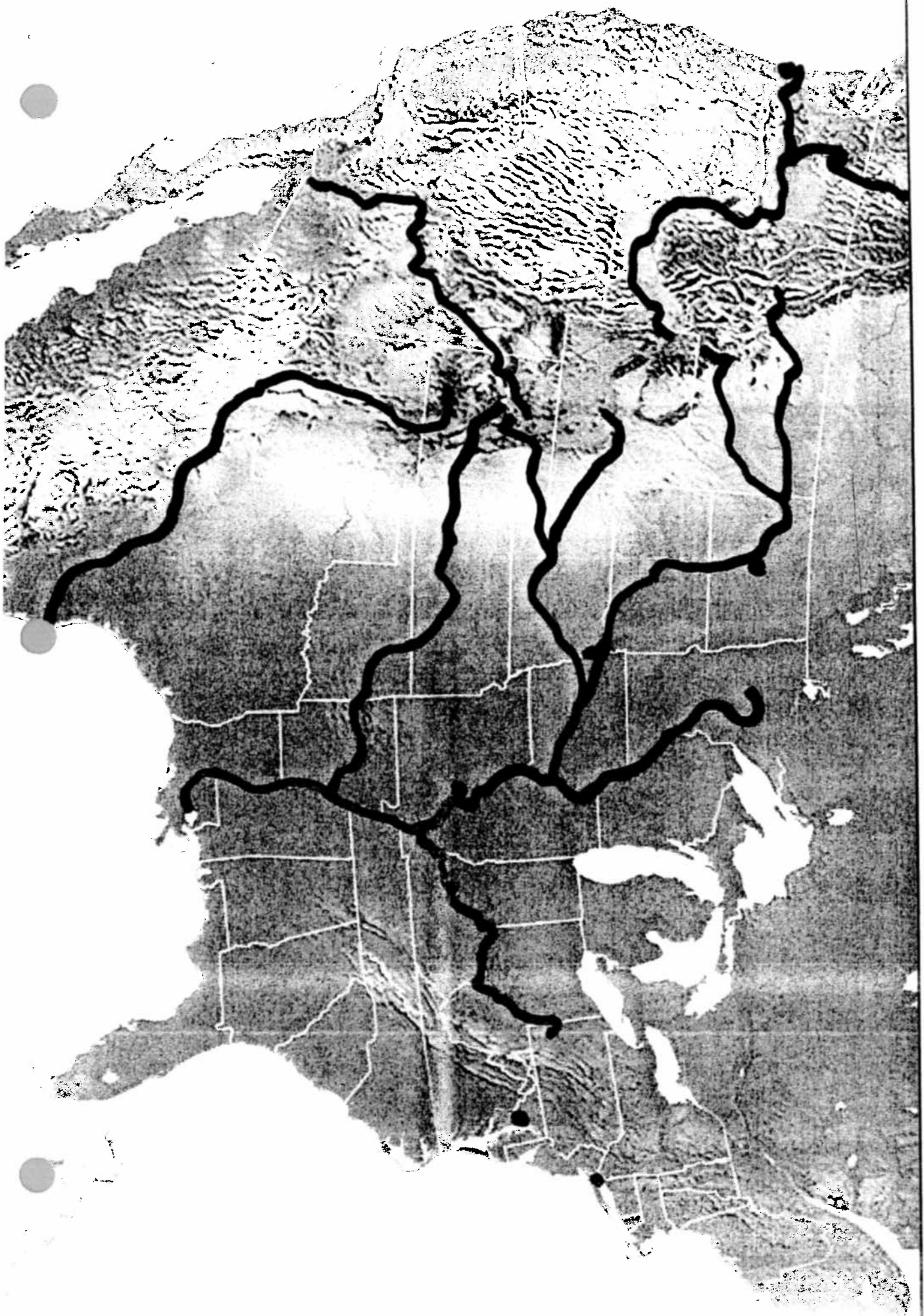
1. Washington D.C.
2. St. Louis
3. New York
4. Burial Place of Sgt. Floyd
5. Ft. Mandan
6. Ft. Clatsop
7. The Rocky Mountains***Label the Rocky Mountains by drawing small triangles where the mountain range should be***

Territories

Shade each of the following the designated color

1. The United States (shade blue)
2. The Louisiana Territory (shade green)
3. The Spanish Territory (shade red)
4. Oregon Country (shade orange)

Lewis & Clarks Journey West 1804-1806



Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809)

Diplomat, explorer, scientist, governor, soldier, Virginia gentleman, student, secretary to the president: during his 36 years, Meriwether Lewis bore each of these titles. Born into a prominent Virginia family, Lewis faced the world with opportunity and advantage. By the time of his death in late 1809, he struggled with "melancholy," financial troubles and alcohol. Complex and often contradictory, the incarnations of Meriwether Lewis provide insight into the man behind the titles.

Virginia gentleman: Born on August 18, 1774, Meriwether Lewis literally grew up with the new republic. He was exactly eight months old when Paul Revere made the legendary ride that signaled the beginning of the Revolution, and the birth of the new United States of America, which Lewis was to serve with distinction. Born in Virginia, Meriwether Lewis was the first child of Lucy Meriwether and William Lewis. After William's death in 1781, Lucy remarried and moved the family to Georgia. As a young teenager, Lewis returned by himself to Virginia to manage his family's estate. Upon the death of his stepfather, Lewis, not yet out of his teens, became the head of a household that included his mother and four siblings.

Soldier: Enlisting in 1794, Meriwether Lewis served in Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. He had been amongst the troops that were sent to put down the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania. During this time, he met and befriended one of his commanding officers, William Clark. Army life suited Lewis and by 1800 he had been promoted to captain.

Secretary to the President: Shortly after his election, President Jefferson invited Lewis to serve as his personal secretary. Explaining the selection, Jefferson wrote that a "personal acquaintance with [Lewis], owing to his being of my neighborhood, has induced me to select him..." Lewis served as secretary for less than two years before being reassigned. Jefferson had selected Lewis to be the "intelligent officer...fit for the enterprise and willing to ...explore...to the Western Ocean."

Student: In 1803, preparing for his journey to the Pacific Ocean, Lewis spent a month in Philadelphia studying with the eminent scientists of the day. His education included intensive courses in medicine, preservation of plant and animal samples, the use of navigation instruments for determining latitude and longitude, and the study of fossils.

Explorer, Diplomat and Scientist: Between 1804 and 1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the Corps of Discovery from Wood River, Illinois, to the Pacific Ocean. As they traveled, Clark mapped their route and Lewis recorded information about and collected samples of the unfamiliar plants and animals they encountered. The explorers met with the tribes of the Louisiana Purchase to tell them of the changes that would transpire under U.S. ownership. Lewis and Clark also tried to establish peace between tribes. Not understanding complex intertribal relations and tribal structures, few of these peace-making efforts met with enduring success.

Governor: In 1806, Jefferson appointed Lewis governor of the Louisiana Territory. Taking up his post nearly two years later, Lewis faced challenges almost immediately. Personality conflicts, political differences, and questions about the appropriation of government funds all contributed to his difficulties. Hoping to resolve the financial questions, Lewis set out for Washington D.C. in late 1809. The "melancholy" Lewis experienced throughout his life reappeared to such an extent that his traveling companions worried for Lewis's safety. On October 11, 1809, Meriwether Lewis died in his lodgings in Tennessee. Although questions remain, it is generally believed that he died at his own hand.



William Clark (1770-1838)

One hundred sixty three years after his death, William Clark received a promotion. In 2001, President Clinton promoted Clark from Lieutenant to Captain. Although Clark's captaincy was late in coming, to have called the famous journey of 1803 to 1806 simply the Lewis Expedition would have been inaccurate in spirit, if not in fact. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark shared equally in the tasks and responsibilities of their cross-continental journey.

Twenty years before the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Thomas Jefferson asked William Clark's older brother and Revolutionary War hero, George Rogers Clark, to head an overland expedition to the Pacific. General Clark declined the offer. When Meriwether Lewis accepted command for the 1803 Expedition, however, it wasn't the eldest Clark brother he sought as co-commander, but a younger member of the Clark family, William. Anticipating the rigors of a journey to the Pacific Ocean, Lewis informed Clark that "...under those circumstances in this enterprise, ...it's fatigues, it's dangers and it's honors, believe me there is no man on earth with whom I should feel equal pleasure in sharing them as with yourself."

Lewis's regard for Clark grew out of shared service. Only a few years earlier, when both men had served in the U.S. Army in Ohio, Clark had been Lewis's commanding officer. Although the two men believed they would share the captaincy of the Expedition, word that Clark would remain a lieutenant arrived shortly before they departed St. Louis. The men of the Expedition, having spent a winter addressing "Captain Clark" were not told of the difference between their two leaders.



William Clark's contributions to the Expedition are those of a captain. The map he created as they traveled was, at the time, the most accurate map of the trans-Missouri West. His stable personality balanced Lewis's moodiness. And when Lewis's pen fell silent during many months of the journey, Clark's words, straightforward and creatively spelled, became the record of the Expedition.

William Clark also left his mark along the Trail. On July 25, 1806, Clark scratched his signature into a sandstone formation along the Yellowstone River in Montana. Recording the event in his journal, Clark noted that "this rock I ascended ... had a most extensive view in every direction...I marked my name and the day of the month and year." He called the formation Pompey's Tower, using a nickname Clark had bestowed on Sacajawea's son Jean Baptiste, or Pomp. The etched signature can still be seen at the site, now called Pompeys Pillar, near Billings, Montana. Clark's signature is believed to be the only remaining on-site physical evidence of the expedition.

Having crossed a continent, Clark returned to St. Louis to build a successful and varied life of family and work. Clark fathering seven children-one of which he named Meriwether Lewis Clark. William Clark also temporarily cared for Sacagawea's son, Jean Baptiste. After Lewis's death, Clark completed the work of the Expedition by helping to prepare the journals for publication. Clark's fair diplomatic relations with American Indians during his years as brigadier general of the militia, Superintendent of Indian Affairs of the Upper Louisiana Territory, and Governor of the Missouri Territory, gained him the esteem of his peers.

Although the second-ranked commander of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Clark proved to be a first rate leader, both during the Expedition and after. Like his signature on Pompey's Pillar, William Clark's life has left a lasting imprint on our history.

York (1772-18??)

Because he spent most of his life as an enslaved man, York was never permitted to tell his own story. Taken together, however, the Expedition journals, William Clark's letters, and other accounts provide a sketch of the man and his importance to the Corps. As the property of William Clark, the choice of joining the Corps was not York's to make. His feelings about leaving his wife behind to begin a journey across a continent were never recorded. His contributions, however, were considerable.

During the 28-month journey, York served the expedition in many ways. Like most members of the Corps, he hunted for game. Although an ordinary and necessary task, York's hunting is noteworthy because, at the time, slaves were not generally permitted to carry firearms. He also served as a scout, joining Clark and others to reconnoiter the trail. York assisted in cooking, carrying supplies during portages, and constructing Forts Mandan and Clatsop. All the while he served the needs of his master, William Clark.

Several of the tribes the Expedition met had never seen a black man. On occasion, Lewis and Clark used this to their advantage. When Lewis hoped to barter for some much needed horses, he stalled the departure of a band of Shoshone with descriptions of "a man with us who was black and had short curling hair." Their curiosity peaked, the Shoshoni stayed.

York was probably the first African-American man to vote in the United States. Did any member of the Corps consider the significance of York's participation in the vote to determine where the Corps would spend the winter of 1805 and 1806? The journal shows only a tally of names and how each voted. But in this instance, each man's (and woman's- Sacagawea also voted) vote carried equal weight.

At the Expedition's end, while York returned to a life of slavery, other members of the Corps received double pay and 320 acres of land. For many years, Clark denied York his much wanted freedom. In a letter written in December 1808, Clark detailed his thoughts on the matter: "I did wish to do well by him. but as he has got Such a notion about freedom and his Services ... I do not think with him, that his Services has been So great/or my Situation would promit me to liberate him."

Information on York's last years comes from author Washington Irving, who in 1832 visited William Clark. Clark claimed that he had freed York. Although the exact year is unknown, it is unlikely to have been before 1815. Along with his freedom, York received a wagon and team of horses. With these, he started a business hauling goods. According to Clark, the business failed and York, "determined to go back to his old master," began making his way to St. Louis. While traveling, York contracted cholera and died in Tennessee.



Sacagawea (1788-18??)

Imagine yourself a teenager – just 16 or 17 years old. Could you lead visitors through your old neighborhood, a place you had last seen as a child of 11 or 12? Could you also care for your spouse and newborn baby? Sacagawea, the only woman to travel with the Corps of Discovery, did this and more.

In 1804, Sacagawea was living among the Mandan and Hidatsa, near present day Bismarck, North Dakota. Approximately four years earlier, a Hidatsa raiding party had taken Sacagawea from her home in Idaho and from her people, the Lemhi Shoshone. Living among the Mandan and Hidatsa, Sacagawea married French trader Toussaint Charbonneau. In February of 1805, she gave birth to a baby boy, her first child. Captain Lewis recorded the event in his journal: "about five o'clock this evening one of the wives of Charbonneau was delivered of a fine boy."

Two months after the birth of her son, Sacagawea left the Mandan and Hidatsa villages to journey west with the Corps of Discovery. While Sacagawea is often remembered as the guide who led the Corps across the plains, Expedition journals offer little evidence of this. Historians generally believe that Sacagawea joined the Expedition because her husband had been hired as a translator. Still, Sacagawea contributed significantly to the success of the journey.

Simply because she was a woman, Sacagawea helped the Corps. Among the tribes the explorers met, her presence dispelled the notion that the group was a war party. William Clark explained that "the Wife of Charbonneau...reconciles all the Indians, as to our friendly intentions. A woman with a party of men is a token of peace."

Once the Corps reached Idaho, Sacagawea's knowledge of the landscape and the Shoshone language proved valuable. The Corps was eager to find the Shoshone and trade with them for horses. The success of the journey hinged on finding the tribe: without horses the explorers would be unable to get their supplies over the mountains. Recognizing landmarks in her old neighborhood, Sacagawea reassured the explorers that the Shoshone - and their horses - would soon be found. When the Expedition did meet the Shoshone, Sacagawea helped the Corps communicate, translating along with her husband.

As the Corps traveled eastward in 1806, returning to St. Louis, they stopped again at the Mandan and Hidatsa villages. There Sacagawea and her family ended their journey. Historians have debated the events of Sacagawea's life after the journey's end. Although opinions differ, it is generally believed that she died at Fort Manuel Lisa near present-day Kenel, South Dakota. At the time of her death she was not yet 30.



Biography Questions

Meriwether Lewis

1. How old was Lewis at the beginning of the American Revolution?
2. How old was Lewis when his father died?
3. Roughly how old was Lewis when his stepfather died?
4. Lewis was one of the troops sent to put down what rebellion?
5. Shortly after his election, President Jefferson invited Lewis to serve as what?
6. What were some of the skills that Lewis had to learn in order to lead the expedition west?

William Clark

1. William Clark didn't officially obtain the rank of "Captain" until what year?
2. Who did Thomas Jefferson originally ask to lead an expedition to the Pacific Ocean?
3. A few years before the expedition, when Lewis and Clark served together in the Army, who had the higher rank?
4. Did Lewis or Clark tell the members of the expedition who had the higher rank?
5. What was the name of Clark's oldest son?

York

1. What was York's relationship with Clark?
2. Who made the decision to include York in the expedition?
3. What is so remarkable about York being permitted to hunt on the expedition?
4. List several ways in which York helped the expedition.
5. On the expedition, York became the first African-American to do what?

Sacagawea

1. How old was Sacagawea when she led the expedition west?
2. Sacagawea was born a Shoshone Indian, how did she end up with the Mandan?
3. The Mandan Indians lived in what now day state?
4. What was the name/occupation of Sacagawea's husband?
5. List several ways in which Sacagawea helped the expedition.

SACAGAWEA'S IMPROBABLE REUNION

AN AMERICAN ICON POINTS THE WAY FOR LEWIS AND CLARK



LEWIS *and Clark didn't name a single landmark to commemorate their teenage interpreter, Sacagawea. They did honor her with "Bird Woman River," apparently thinking the white translation of her difficult name—spelled many ways, both in their journals and today—would be memorable when her native name wasn't.*

THEY WOULD NO DOUBT be astonished to discover today that her real name is as famous as theirs, and adorns scores of items, including parks and a massive lake that covers the land of the friendly tribes who helped the explorers survive a nasty North Dakota winter. Novels about her—some making incredible claims—outsell books about the expedition itself.

In real life, Sacagawea didn't fare any better when it came to a payday. Her French-Canadian husband, Toussaint Charbonneau—who cinched his interpreter job because she knew her native Shoshoni language—was paid \$500.33. She received not a penny. At least Clark apologized for this slight in a letter to Charbonneau on August 20, 1806—well, sort of: “Your woman who accompanied you that long, dangerous and fatiguing rout to the Pacific Ocean and back deserved a greater reward for her attention and services on that rout than we had in power to give her.” Wouldn't he be shocked today to see her face on a dollar coin, officially issued by the United States of America?

To Lewis, she was little more than “the Indian woman” who came with Charbonneau, although he did help birth her son. Clark saw more, calling her “Janey,” acknowledging her contributions to the trip and eventually educating her son in St. Louis. (An affair between Clark and Sacagawea is probably myth, although the idea of one made it into a bestseller.)

Neither Lewis nor Clark realized one of the enduring legacies of their Voyage of Discovery was to make this teenager one of the most famous women in America. They would never have guessed more statues would be erected to her than any other woman of any color. Nor could they have guessed they'd given her a special status when they made her the first American woman having the right to vote. (OK, so it was only once and just on where to locate a winter fort, but her sisters wouldn't get the privilege for another century, so it's worth noting.)

Folklore and movies have made her out to be more than she was. She wasn't “*the guide*” of the expedition, as some have claimed—most of the landscape she saw was as new to her as it was to Lewis and Clark—but she did help when it really mattered, in the mountains of Montana and Idaho when she came into the Shoshoni land of her birth.

It was there that one of the unadulterated joys of the entire expedition was experienced—one glorious moment in a thousand days of hardship. It is such an incredible moment that historian and filmmaker Dayton Duncan calls it, “coincidence that would strain credulity in a fictional account.”

By late July 1805, the Corps of Discovery had surmounted the Great Falls of the Missouri (near Great Falls, Montana), and reached the Three Forks, where the party rested for two days. Although Sacagawea showed no outward emotion—as far as Lewis could discern—the campsite must have brought back a flood of memories. Five years earlier, she and her native family had camped at the same spot when they were attacked by Hidatsas. The Shoshonis had fled to a nearby forest, but the Hidatsas followed, killing most of the band and taking Sacagawea, a few other women and four boys captive. They were brought back to the Hidatsa village in North Dakota, where Charbonneau won Sacagawea in a wager.

From the Three Forks, the Corps ascended the Jefferson River—which Lewis named for the president—then headed up its main Western tributary, the Beaverhead, which the two captains called a “fork of the Jefferson.” While the enlisted men dragged their canoes through

the rocky shallows, Lewis went ahead with a small scouting party, searching for Shoshonis. He found no one.

With autumn approaching, Lewis and Clark urgently needed to obtain horses from the Shoshonis so the Corps could pack its supplies over the Continental Divide before winter snows closed the passes.

They were counting on a convoluted interpretive dance to understand this new tribe: Sacagawea knew the Shoshoni language and also some Hidatsa, which she'd relate to her husband, who could translate from Hidatsa into French for the official interpreter, George Drouillard, who would convert it into English.

On August 8 as the expedition stopped for the evening, Sacagawea excitedly pointed at a nearby hill, calling it the "Beaver's Head" (in Montana's Beaverhead Rock State Park, north of Dillon). She remembered the formation from her childhood. Through the translations of Charbonneau and Drouillard, she informed Lewis and Clark that her people spent their summers in a valley to the west. Motioning toward the distant Beaverhead Mountains, she told the captains about a pass the Shoshonis used when going to hunt buffalo. She was positive her band would be found on the other side.

Desperate to locate the Shoshonis or some other tribe with horses, Lewis picked three men and the next morning headed toward the Continental Divide. Clark remained with the main party and their canoes, intending to continue up the Beaverhead until Lewis returned. Despite venturing into the country where Sacagawea had been raised, Lewis—for some unfathomable reason—left the young woman behind.

On August 11, Lewis and his scouts spotted an Indian on horseback, but he refused their advances and rode away. The next day, Lewis and his men crested the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass and entered what is now Idaho. That afternoon, they drank from a creek whose waters would eventually flow to the Pacific Ocean, marking the first time the Corps of Discovery had ventured beyond the Louisiana Purchase.

On August 13, Lewis and his party descended a prominent Indian trail that led to the Lemhi Valley, west of the Beaverheads. Although the Americans spotted several Indians, the natives ran away when Lewis approached. Frustrated at being unable to make contact, he and his men headed north along the Lemhi River, and soon surprised three more Indians. A teenage girl fled, but the other two—a 12-year-old girl and an elderly woman—sat passively on the ground, their eyes downcast, no doubt certain that they were about to be killed.

Drouillard used sign language to relay the Americans' peaceful intentions, asking the Indians to recall the teenager who had run away. Meanwhile, Lewis gave the Indians a few trinkets. Losing her fear, the elderly woman signaled the teenager, who soon returned. Drouillard then coaxed the women into leading the Americans to their camp.

After covering about two miles, they encountered 60 warriors galloping to the women's rescue. When the Indians spotted Lewis and his men, they reined in their horses and eyed the Americans warily.

Knowing that a careless move could cost his party its scalps, Lewis put down his rifle and unfurled an American flag. Then in company with the old woman, he walked toward the



*Looking west after he summited
Lemhi Pass, all Lewis saw were
mountains. That day, the hope of a
Northwest water passage died.*

warriors. The woman told the Shoshonis' leader, Chief Cameahwait, that she and her two companions were unharmed and that Lewis had given them presents. The chief immediately put aside his suspicions and invited the Americans to his camp (located about seven miles north of Tendoy, Idaho).

Over the next couple of days, Lewis persuaded Chief Cameahwait and a number of his band to accompany him back over Lemhi Pass so they could rendezvous with Clark and the rest of the expedition at a place Lewis called "the forks of the Jefferson River" (now beneath Montana's Clark Canyon Reservoir). He added that the Americans needed the Indians' horses to pack their equipment over the mountains.

Although the Shoshonis expressed concern about being led into a trap, Lewis promised to give them presents, saying they were with the main party. The lure of the American's gifts convinced the Indians to risk going.

On August 16, Lewis, Cameahwait and their combined entourage arrived at the place Lewis had said they would find the expedition, but Clark and the rest of the Corps were nowhere to be seen. Many of the Indians wanted to return home, fearful Lewis was conspiring with their enemies in order to massacre them. But before the Shoshonis could reach a consensus to leave, Lewis told them the Americans had with them a young Shoshoni woman who had been captured by the Hidatsas several years earlier. If they departed now, he said, they would not only miss seeing her but also a man with black skin and short curly hair—William Clark's slave, York. Their curiosity aroused, the Shoshonis decided to stay.

The following morning while Drouillard and a Shoshoni warrior headed downstream to search for the main expedition, Clark, Charbonneau and Sacagawea left their camp and walked up the Beaverhead River, looking for Lewis. Suddenly, Sacagawea began to dance and suck her fingers as she pointed at Drouillard and his Shoshoni companion.

Much to everyone's relief, the parties reunited a short time later. In the midst of much embracing, Jumping Fish, a young Shoshoni woman who had accompanied Cameahwait, recognized Sacagawea as her childhood friend. During the Hidatsa attack, she had been captured with Sacagawea, but Jumping Fish had leapt through a stream—hence her name—and escaped.

While the two women renewed their friendship, Lewis and Clark began to parley with Chief Cameahwait beneath a canvas canoe sail that had been erected as a sunshade. After smoking a ceremonial pipe, the captains sent for Charbonneau and his wife. Sacagawea was to translate Cameahwait's Shoshoni to Hidatsa, for Charbonneau to relate in French to Private Francis Labiche (he was standing in for Drouillard), who would render Cameahwait's words in English to Lewis and Clark—or so the captains hoped.

As the circuitous translation began, Sacagawea gazed intently at the Shoshoni chief as if he reminded her of someone from her past. All at once she jumped to her feet, rushed to his side, threw her arms around him and started sobbing. It took several moments for Lewis and Clark to understand why she was so distraught, but when they did, they certainly counted their blessings. Cameahwait was Sacagawea's brother.

Over the next three days, Clark, Sacagawea, Charbonneau and 11 other members of the expedition accompanied the Shoshonis over Lemhi Pass to their camp in the Lemhi Valley. Taking a native guide, Clark then headed down the Lemhi River to the Salmon—which he named Lewis' River—to see if it could be safely descended in dugout canoes. He and Lewis were hoping to discover a water route to the Oregon Coast. Clark was soon disappointed. A few miles west of present-day North Fork, Idaho, he saw enough rapids to convince him the Salmon could not be run. To do so would be suicide. It was a "river of no return."

While Clark was making his reconnaissance, back at the Shoshonis' camp, Sacagawea encountered a warrior to whom she had been promised in marriage before her capture by the Hidatsas. The ticklish situation was resolved when the warrior renounced his claim because Sacagawea had given birth to Charbonneau's son.

On August 22, Sacagawea, Charbonneau and 50 mounted Shoshonis returned to the expedition's main camp east of the Beaverhead Mountains. After caching their canoes and excess stores, the Americans packed their remaining baggage on the Indians' ponies and headed over the Continental Divide to meet up with Clark.

As August drew to a close, Lewis and Clark traded with the Shoshonis, obtaining the horses they needed for the next leg of their exploration. One can only guess about the emotional turmoil Sacagawea must have gone through as she weighed whether to remain with her people or continue to the Oregon Coast with the Corps of Discovery. In the end, the pull of adventure won out over family.

When Lewis and Clark rode away from the Shoshonis' camp, Sacagawea went with them, eventually securing her rightful place as an American heroine.

THINGS WE KNOW FOR SURE ABOUT SACAGAWEA

- ◆ Nov. 11, 1804: Sacagawea enters Fort Mandan with her husband. She's six months pregnant with her first child.
- ◆ Feb. 11, 1805: With the help of Meriwether Lewis, who feeds her a physic made of rattlesnake rattle, she gives birth to a son and names him Jean Baptiste. (Clark calls him "Pomp.")
- ◆ April 13: She calmly rescues scientific instruments and valuables being washed overboard when a pirogue almost capsizes.
- ◆ May 20: Lewis and Clark name "Bird Woman River" in her honor.
- ◆ June 10: She hovers near death alongside the Great Falls of the Missouri. She is bled repeatedly by Clark and finally recovers by drinking mineral water from a sulfur spring.
- ◆ June 29: She, Charbonneau, Pomp and Clark nearly drown in a flash flood.
- ◆ July 28: At the Three Forks of the Missouri, she calmly recounts the story of her capture by Hidatsa raiders five years earlier.
- ◆ Aug. 27: She is reunited with her brother, chief of the Shoshoni.
- ◆ Oct. 13: Her presence convinces local tribes that the expedition comes in peace.
- ◆ Nov. 24: She is allowed to vote with the men on the location of Fort Clatsop on the Oregon Coast.
- ◆ Jan. 6, 1806: Sacagawea insists on being taken to the Pacific Ocean to see a beached whale.
- ◆ July 6: She points out Bozeman Pass to Clark's party on their return trip through Montana.
- ◆ Aug. 17: She and Charbonneau remain at the lower Hidatsa village as the expedition makes its way to St. Louis and the end of its journey.

FO IMPORTANT THINGS WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT SACAGAWEA

- How to spell her name. Most people know her as Sacajawea (SACK'-a-ja-wee-a). In North Dakota, they insist on spelling it Sakakawea (Sa-CA'-ca-wee-a). But scholars, historians and the U.S. Geographical Names Board call her Sacagawea (Sa-CA'-ga-wee-a).
- When and where she died. Most historians believe she died December 20, 1812, at Fort Manuel in South Dakota when she was 25. While the North Dakota Interpretive Center cites this date and place, it also adds that some historians think she renamed herself "Porivo" and lived into her nineties, dying in Wyoming in 1884.



Meriwether Lewis (top) and William Clark.

Sacagawea's Improbable Reunion

1. How much was Toussaint Sacagawea's husband, paid for helping the expedition?
2. How much was Sacagawea paid?
3. Who, Lewis or Clark, gave Sacagawea more credit for the role she played in helping the expedition?
4. During the voyage Sacagawea became to first women to do what?
5. Why did the expedition need to find the Shoshoni Indians?
6. What did the expedition cross at Lemhi Pass in what is now Idaho?
7. What was the name of the Chief of the Shoshoni?
8. What aroused the curiosity of the Shoshoni and convinced them to stay and wait for the Corp of Discovery?
9. Why was Sacagawea and Cameahwait's meeting so remarkable and so improbable?
10. How old do most historians believe Sacagawea was when she died?
11. Who was Porivo and how does she fit into the legend of Sacagawea?

